

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please amend the **Abstract** to read:

B1 A personal care absorbent article includes an absorbent core that has been treated in a manner, or is made from materials, that inhibit the transfer of liquid through the structure in and below the a target area. The distribution layer above the core could likewise be treated in a manner that discourages Z-directional fluid movement. A separate transfer delay layer is avoided, thereby simplifying manufacture and reducing costs. ✓

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

B2 This invention relates to personal care absorbent articles such as disposable sanitary napkins (as seen in Figures 1, 2a and 2b), diapers (as seen in Figure 3), incontinence garments, and the like. These products typically have a liquid permeable body side liner, a liquid impervious baffle, and an absorbent core between the liner and baffle. Figure 1 specifically illustrates a top view of a feminine hygiene product 10 in accordance with the invention. A cross-sectional view of this product along lines 20-20 is shown in Figure 2a, and a cross-sectional view of an alternative embodiment of this product is shown in Figure 2b. As can be seen in Figure 1, an oblong-shaped target area 12 (shown in broken lines/phantom) is situated along the top bodyside surface of the product. In Figure 3, a top view of a diaper 40 is shown with an oblong <sup>t</sup>Target area 42. Areas within the target areas are designated respectively as 35 and 38, and areas outside the target areas are designated 37 and 39 respectively. As can be seen in Figure 2a, the feminine hygiene product 10 includes a body side liner 14, an absorbent core 16, and a liquid impervious baffle 18, with the layers positioned along the Z direction of the product. As seen in Figures 2a and 2b, areas below the target area are designated as 36, and may correspond in the Z-direction to the areas defined by the target area 12. ✓

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

B3 *AN* Alternatively, an a target area of increased density may be made by compressing the absorbent in only the area below the target area. Alternatively, fibers of a smaller denier may be used in only the area below the target area, and at a higher fiber count. *AN*

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 18, with the following rewritten paragraph:

B4 *AN* Superabsorbent fibers may be easily blended with the synthetic and natural fibers in a nonwoven process used to produce the absorbent core. If they are placed only, or primarily, in the absorbent core area below the target area, they will act to reduce the penetration of fluid into the core below by absorbing the fluid and expanding. This expansion will reduce void volume and further decrease fluid penetration into the core. *AN*

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

B5 *AN* A related method of slowing fluid entry into the core is by using a mixture of superabsorbents in the absorbent core. Using a relatively fast absorbing superabsorbent (or mixture thereof) in the area outside the target area while using a relative slow absorbing superabsorbent (or mixture thereof) inside in the area below the target area, will similarly discourage fluid penetration of the core in below the target area and instead encourage X - Y plane fluid movement. The fluid can thus be detoured outside of the target area where it may be absorbed by the balance of the core, not

*B5-cont*  
below the target area. The relative speed of superabsorbents may be ascertained by the use of the absorption time index (ATI) test, given above. A greater ATI means that a superabsorbent is relatively slower than a superabsorbent having a lower ATI. *AV*

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

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*B6* *AV* One example of a material according to this invention is one in which the lower surface of the distribution material is treated with a solution of AHCOVEL surfactant in an amount from a positive amount to 0.1 weight percent. This may be applied by methods known in the art in an area outside the target area so that liquid movement in the Z – direction is enhanced. Another example of a material according to this invention is one having a concentration of superabsorbent in the target area of the absorbent core below the target area, of 10 to 50 percent greater than the surrounding core area, not below the target area. Still another example is one having a compressed area in the absorbent core, corresponding to the target area, which results in a density from 10 to 50 percent greater than the uncompressed absorbent core. *AV*

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